



## The teacher who started it all



April Dunnehoo is the teacher in southwest Louisiana featured in Tina Marks' short story, *MNRI® in the Classroom* in the new book, *Reflexes: Portal to Neurodevelopment and Learning*.

April was initially introduced to MNRI® when she walked into Tina's speech therapy session and was surprised to see Tina working on the student's feet! Her interest was sparked immediately. Within a few weeks she attended her first MNRI® workshop and immediately knew the potential and impact this could have on the students in her classroom.

Through discussions with other local therapists and with the permission from her principal, she spent the last six weeks in her classroom that year implementing the MNRI® Archetype DVD and several reflex patterns. The results were quite amazing – from changes in behavior to handwriting – in a very challenged group of children. That summer, she worked with the therapists and Dr. Patty Shackelford to coordinate the first *Maximizing Brain Potential* workshop, intended to help other teachers implement the Archetypes and reflex patterns in their classrooms.

The next year, she used the Archetype DVD and reflex patterns to transform her classroom. Several low functioning students who were charted for special education evaluations, no longer qualified for services after the first six weeks of implementation. Low readers gained the skills and confidence to become good readers. By the end of the year, her classroom's DIBELS scores (a reading placement indicator) showed the most growth in the whole parish – from the lowest scores in the beginning, to the highest at year end.

April now teaches in a Reverse Mainstream special education preschool classroom where her students also have shown great growth in speech and processing skills. She has presented her ideas and implementation at her local school with her fellow teachers, and has championed her ideas and experiences with over 150 educators on the state level at APEL (Association of Professional Educators of Louisiana) conferences two summers in a row to packed rooms of attendees.

We thank April for her vision in seeing the potential of this program for her students! This vision continues to impact more and more students and teachers in Louisiana (see article below) and elsewhere.

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## **Maximizing class full in Louisiana**

On July 24-25, a *Maximizing Your Brain Potential* class was held at the Leonville Elementary School in Leonville, LA. Thirty-seven people attended including 2



Principals, 2 School

Administrators, several Teachers, a Parent, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, a Behavior Interventionist, and an Educational Diagnostician. They represented schools from 5 parishes (counties) in Louisiana.

The large attendance from a broad area is a result of Tina Marks, Lisa Ortego, Emily Pelican, and Laurie Callaba initiating MNRI® Archetypes in classrooms in their schools in Allen Parish and Jeff Davis Parish in Louisiana. Teacher April Dunnehoo (see story above) received such amazing results and gave presentations about this which has spread the word throughout Louisiana.

Some of the feedback by class attendees were: "I have used this in my class last year and I saw big changes in the students." "I know now how to calm myself and feel safe. My children will feel safer, as well." "My left knee is better. I am bearing weight and walking better. I also have a plan to go home and start helping my son and myself. The personal stories and testimonies along with your knowledge was great! Thank you Dr. Patty!" "You have suggestions for kids that NO one else had suggestions for." "I feel empowered with information." "It was such an amazing experience. . . the most important training I have ever been to." "I just learned so much about how the brain is supposed to work." Some have expressed interest in creating studies for possible publication.

The class was taught by Core Specialists, Dr. Patty Shackleford, Tina Marks, and Lisa Ortego. By the end of the class, those attending were asking for it to be offered again in Louisiana.

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## **New course Instructors certified**



SMEI is excited to announce several new Instructors for MNRI® classes:

**1. Christine Poulin:** (of Canada) in addition to teaching *Dynamic and Postural, Tactile, and NeuroStructural Reflex Integration*, she has now also become a certified MNRI® Instructor in *PTSD and Archetype Movement Integration*.

**2. Sharon Heller:** (of the US) already an MNRI® Instructor for *Dynamic & Postural, Archetype, and Tactile Integration*, Sharon now adds *Visual & Auditory Reflex Integration* to her list of classes certified to teach.

**3. Susanne Wolmesjo** (of Sweden): is now an Instructor in *Dynamic and Postural Reflex Integration*.

**4. Dr. Leah Light:** (of the US) is already an Instructor for *Visual-Auditory Reflexes Integration*, she also is MNRI®'s newest instructor for *Dynamic and Postural Reflex Pattern Integration*. She will soon co-teach this course in Spain with fellow Instructor, Sharon Heller.

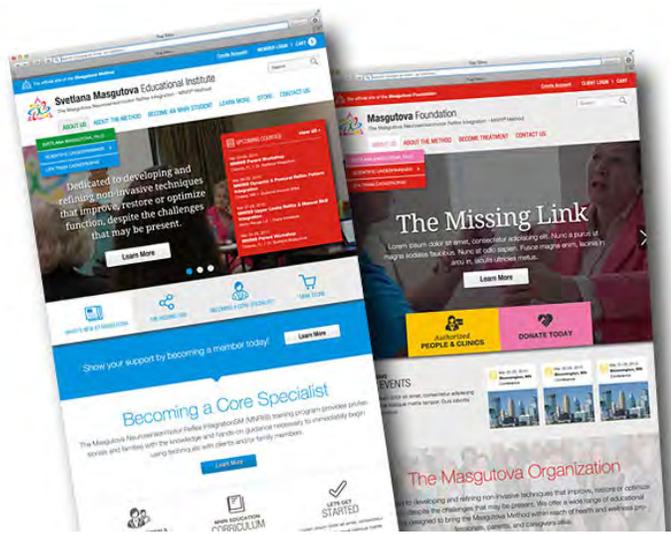
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## Bumper crop of Cores-in-Training in Minneapolis

It was exciting to see 8 people attend our Minneapolis Family Conference as Core-in-Training Specialists on their way to certification. They observed, practiced techniques, watched as new ones were demonstrated, and generally helped where needed. It was a pleasure to have them on board!



## Website change moves forward



Anticipation is growing for the launch of our two new Masgutova websites, which are expected to roll out over the next couple months! The new sites have been redesigned to greatly improve usability on both desktop and especially mobile

devices. Other exciting new features include an enhanced course/conference search system, improved online resources store, updated membership options, and a new easier to use MNRI® Resource Directory!

Here is a sneak peek at the new designs for both the MasgutovaMethod.com and MasgutovaFoundation.org websites.

## What happens at the 8 am. meeting?

As a parent, I always wondered what occurred in the 8 am. meeting held each morning at the Family Conferences with Dr. Masgutova and her specialists.



At the Minneapolis Family Conference, I attended it each morning.

Dr. Masgutova starts the meeting by Archetype stretching movements (if time allows), then talks about what may have happened yesterday and what, if anything must be done to help. She then discusses any events that will be happening during the day (anything unusual happening? what time is the graduation ceremony that day?).

At each meeting, Dr. Masgutova demonstrates a technique – adding enrichment and refinement to the steps (like Hands Supporting), or it can be something like a new approach to Grounding. She will mention which kids might best benefit by receiving these steps. She often adds a story or two about using the technique – how it was developed or the successes she saw.

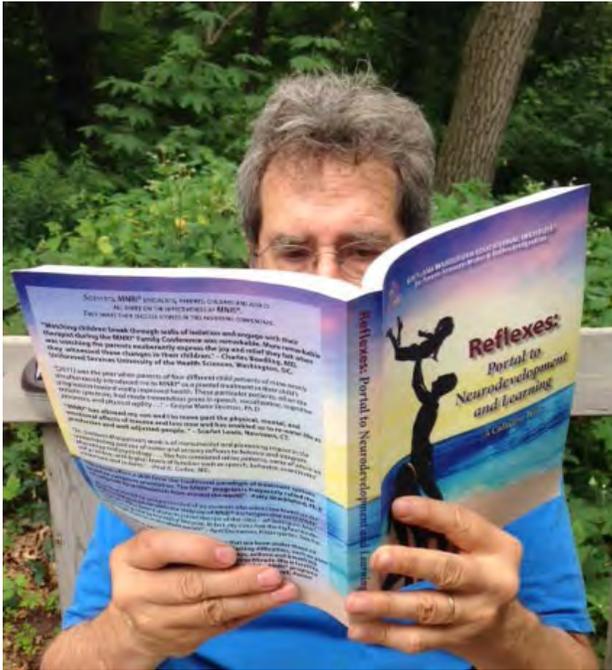
One day we celebrated with the new Core Specialists who had passed tests that previous evening to become certified.

She leads discussions of special needs of the kids, such as, is there a child with sound sensitivity issues who needs different location?

So the meetings are a little education, a little team building, and a little housekeeping – all rolled into 45 minutes.

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## Reflexes book as a tool



The new *Reflexes: Portal to Neurodevelopment and Learning* book is helpful to all those interested in MNRI®, in several ways:

**Instructors:** take a copy with you to your class. Your students can peruse the book and learn more about MNRI® during their downtime or breaks.

**Core Specialists:** this book is loaded with the science behind MNRI® and gives a lot of background material in how

MNRI® has been successfully used in a variety of settings. Consider having a book available for your parents to read while you are working with their child.

**Parents:** this book helps parents learn how to use MNRI® by showing examples of individuals who have been successful and the steps they took to reach the results attained for their child.

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## Eight new Core Specialists certified

Ten new Core Specialists recently became certified with MNRI® in Minneapolis.

Pictured from left are Anna Nameny of Elk River, MN; Tammy Feigl of



Bloomington, MN;

Lisa Ortego of Carencro, LA; Tina Marks of Opelousas, LA; Heather Taylor of Bella Vista, AR; Angela Kaas of Richfield, MN; and Joan Spalding of Evergreen, CO.



Elsewhere, Kimberly Clark of Gorham, ME was also recently certified as a Core Specialist.

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## Foundation administrator on board

Antoinette Schicchi, formerly from Dania Beach, FL has joined the Masgutova Team as the coordinator of the new non-profit, the Masgutova Foundation.

She is a recent graduate of The Clinton School of Public Service, where she received a masters degree in Non-Profit Management. She also holds a masters of Library and Information Studies from Florida State University. The funds that Antoinette brings to the Foundation will be used for research, scholarships for parents and Cores-in-Training, and for PTSD services provided around the world.

We are excited to have Antoinette on our team with her enthusiasm and willingness to explore new pathways of growth and development for the Masgutova Foundation.



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## MNRI taught in Egypt



Diane Whiteside, Core Specialist and Certified Instructor for MNRI®, taught one of the first classes in Egypt in May organized by Hoda Ellackany, an MNRI® parent and student. The group of students came from vast distances with differences in culture, educational backgrounds, and professions. Thirty-six (36%) were mothers of special needs children (3

were medical doctors), 4 were physiotherapists, 14 were speech therapists, 1 was a physical education teacher, 1 was a special education teacher, and 1 was an art therapist. One student came from Lebanon, one from Palestine, and one from Oman.

MNRI® brought together people of different national, cultural, and religious backgrounds in order to share knowledge to enrich the lives of their children.

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## MNRI success stories

Everyone of us needs encouragement.

We all relate and empathize when hearing other people's stories. Success stories stimulate our brains to pave the pathways toward success in what can be done to help our loved ones. Success stories also offer guidance and insight into the methods used to reach the common gains that we all strive for.



If you would like to share a success story of your child, friend, or a person that you provide services for, please send it to Sally Averkamp at [saverkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saverkamp@sbcglobal.net) for possible inclusion on the MNRI® Facebook page and in a future ReflexPortal.

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## New ISMI headquarters in Poland



In June of 2015, the International Svetlana Masgutova Institute of Poland moved into their new building in Warsaw, Poland. The old location had become too small and this new, larger building has many beautiful rooms in which to provide MNRI®. A yard is available for picnicking and Archetype Movements outdoors and the

upstairs balcony overlooks the bricked drive and yard.

There is a kitchen upstairs as well as many large windows which keep the rooms light and airy.

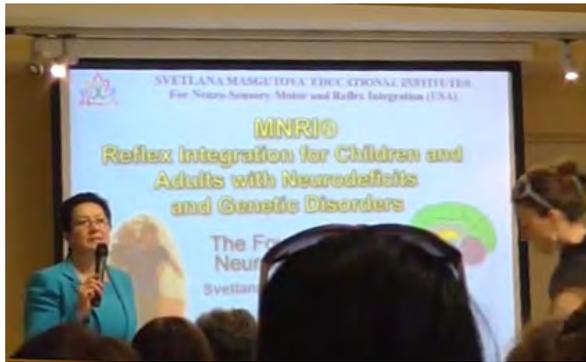
There is also an excellent small hotel (with free breakfast) within walking distance of the center.



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## Dr. Masgutova keynote speaker at International Genetic Disorders Conference

In June of this year Dr. Masgutova was invited as keynote speaker for the Italian Congress Saronno in Italy. Her presentation was 2 hours long and was titled *Reflex Integration in Children and Adults with Neurodeficits and Genetic Disorders*.



This dynamic presentation was received with enthusiasm by the international participants.

Her presentation is posted in 5 parts on You Tube [here](#).

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## Chronic Stress, Anxiety and PTSD Family Conference scheduled



On Oct. 6-9, 2015 SMEI has scheduled a 4 day conference in the Orlando headquarters specifically for [Stress, Anxiety, and PTSD](#) for people of all ages. Building on the great success of the Washington, DC PTSD Conference, this will be another opportunity for children and adults to receive

stress relief.

We wish to serve as many veterans as possible. Veterans are encouraged to contact [Dr. Patty](#) for information about possible financial assistance with their registration fees.

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## Upcoming events

For further information about any of these events, see this [link](#):

Jul 28 - Aug 6, 2015 : 8 Day MNRI® **Family Educational Conference**  
Orlando, FL | Dr. Svetlana Masgutova

**Class:** Jul 31 - Aug 3, 2015 : MNRI® Dynamic and Postural Reflex Pattern  
Integration  
Charlotte, NC | Sharon Heller

**Class:** Aug 8-10, 2015 : MNRI® Neurosensorimotor Points Activation  
Orlando, FL | Dr. Svetlana Masgutova

Aug 12-14, 2015 : MNRI® **Family Clinic**  
Orlando, FL | Dr. Svetlana Masgutova

**Class:** Aug 13-14, 2015 : MNRI® Tactile Integration  
San Ramon, CA | Sharon Heller

**Class:** Aug 14-16, 2015 : MNRI® Archetype Movement Integration  
Minneapolis, MN | Pamela Curlee

Aug 15-24, 2015 : 8 Day MNRI® **Family Educational Conference**  
San Francisco | Dr. Svetlana Masgutova

**Class:** Aug 22-25, 2015 : MNRI® Dynamic and Postural Reflex Pattern  
Integration  
Slovenia, EU | Pamela Curlee

**Class:** Aug 23-25, 2015 : MNRI® Visual & Auditory Reflexes Integration  
New Jersey | Dr. Leah Light

**Class:** Aug 27-30, 2015 : MNRI® IPET Tactile Integration  
Slovenia, EU | Pamela Curlee

**Class:** Aug 29-31, 2015 : MNRI® Archetype Movement Integration  
Hood River, Oregon | Sharon Heller

Aug 30 - Sep 12, 2015 : Svetlana Masgutova **POLISH Family Camp**  
Poland | Denis Masgutov and Institute w/ Dr. Svetlana Masgutova's participation

**Class:** Sep 4-6, 2015 : MNRI® Archetype Movement Integration  
St-Nicolas, Levis, QC | Christine Poulin

**Class:** Sep 10-13, 2015 : MNRI® Lifelong Reflex Integration  
Metz, France | Pamela Curlee

**Class:** Sep 12-13, 2015 : MNRI® Reflex Integration: Maximizing Brain Potential  
Orlando, FL | Patty Shackelford

**Class:** Sep 12-13, 2015 : MNRI® Upper Limbs Reflex & Manual Skill Integration  
Slovenia, EU | Dr. Svetlana Masgutova

**Class:** Sep 15-18, 2015 : MNRI® Lifelong Reflex Integration  
The Netherlands | Pamela Curlee

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